Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, US, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK/US RELATIONS

1. IN COURSE OF INTRODUCTORY COURTESY CALL ON JANUARY 3, GREEK DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE SOTIRIOS KONSTANOPOULOS ASSESSED THE CURRENT STATE OF GREEK/US RELATIONS IN STRIKINGLY POSITIVE TERMS. KONSTANOPOULOS SAID THAT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE ANTI-AMERICAN SETNIMENT IN GREECE AT PRESENT, DESPITE SOME CONTROVERSY OVER US ROLE IN CYPRUS CRISIS. HE EMPHASIZED THIS POINT BY TELLING ME" AFTERALL, WE ARE ALL UNITED IN OPPOSING COMMUNISM. THAT'S THE ESSENTIAL THING."

2. IN DISCUSSING THE CYPRUS CRISIS, KONSTANOPOULOS SAID THT IN HIS JUDGMENT THE SECRETARY WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY MEDIATE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES AND SOMEHOW RESOLVE IT, JUST AS HE WAS THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF RESOLVING THE ARAB-ISRAELI DIFFICULTIES. KONSTANOPOULOS ADDED THAT THE PREVIOUS GRE EK

GOVERNEMTN ITSELF HAD BEEN LARGELY RESPONSBILE FOR THE ONSET OF THE RECENT UPHEAVALS, AND THE US WAS NOT TO BE BLAMED FOR WHAT HAD HAPPENED THERE. HE FURTHER FELT THATTHE RECENT RETURN OF ARACHBISHOP MAKARIOS TO CYPRUS MIGHT HELP MATERS ALONG, BUT THAT MAKARIOS WOULD HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE GRETER FLEXIBILITY CONFIDENTIAL

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THANT HTEHAD SHOWN SO FAR.

3. COMMENT. TENOR OF KONSTANOPOULOS' REMARKS IS OF COURSE STRIKINGLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF RECENT PRESS COVERAGE WHICH WE HAVE SEEN ABOUT ANTI-US SENTIMENT INGREECE. WHILE THE POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT KONSTANOPOULOS WAS TELLING ME WHTAT HE THOUGH I WANTD TO HEAR, I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS REMARKS WERE GENUINE. KEATING

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